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News Release

Durham Police Department

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Crime Alert – Car Thefts

In recent months, Durham police have noted a number of vehicle thefts involving 1990-1996 Hondas and Acuras.

There were 248 reported motor vehicle thefts from November 2012 to mid-February 2013. Of the 248 vehicles stolen during this period, 93 (37.5%) were Hondas or Acuras. It appears that thieves are favoring Hondas and Acuras in the model years 1990 to 1996.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, the top five vehicles stolen nationwide (and in North Carolina) in 2012 were: (1) 1994 Honda Accord, (2) 1998 Honda Civic, (3) 2006 Ford pickup, (4) 1991 Toyota Camry, (5) 2000 Dodge Caravan.

Car owners are encouraged to take whatever precautions they can to include:

- Not leaving unattended cars running, or warming up
- Never leave your keys in the car or ignition
- Don't leave valuables in the car
- Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is in front of your home.
- Always park in busy, well-lighted areas
- Consider installing a mechanical device that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees
- Investigate the purchase of an auto security system if you live in a high-theft area or drive a theft-prone vehicle
- Carry your registration and insurance card with you. Don't leave personal identification documents or credit cards in your vehicle
- Copy your license plate and vehicle identification (VIN) numbers on a card and keep them with your driver's license. If your vehicle is stolen, police will need this information promptly